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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Confirmation No.: 9219

Application No.: 09/988,954

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: November 21, 2001

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-006-11

For: TISSUE STABILIZATION METHOD

Examiner: P. Prebilic

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Introductory Comments**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 23, 2003, Applicant hereby submits the following amendments, remarks, and request for continued examination. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Amendment begins on a separate sheet.

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 29 2004**

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700**